



THE NOTICEBOARD

www.ferintoshcc.co.uk

Well the shocking news is upon us, we are now in November and that officially means that the “C” word is back in use.... no not COVID... CHRISTMAS!

I don't know where the year has gone but this is the last issue of 2021, apart from a small events poster I put out about Christmas event if I get the information for it.

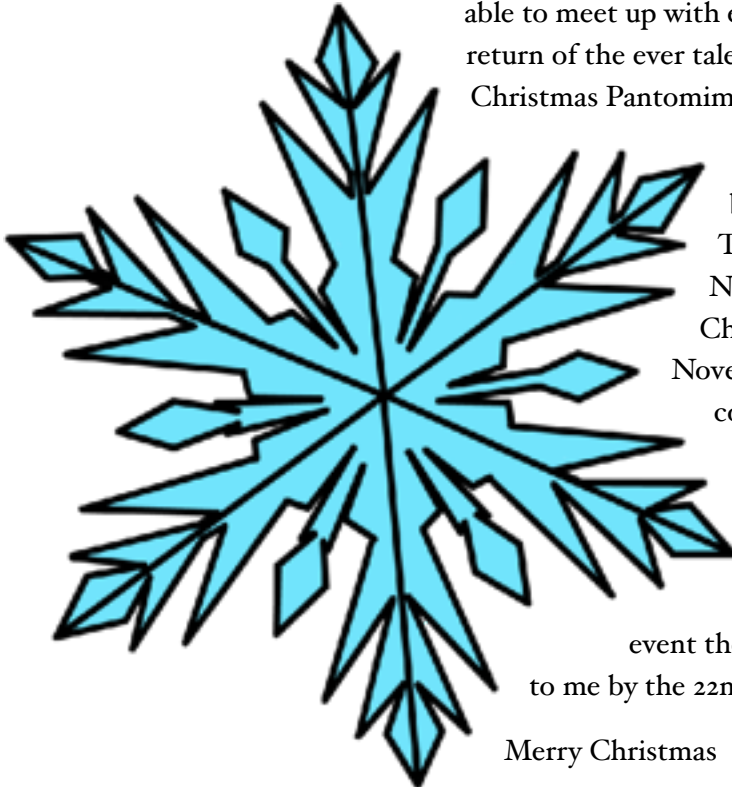
Its nice to know that this Christmas may have some normality to it of families able to meet up with each there (and in the warmth) as well as the much awaited return of the ever talent Culbokie players as they return with their annual Christmas Pantomime.

Due to work and Uni commitments i'm going to go back back to doing 5 issues of The Noticeboard for the year. These issues will be out February, April, June, September and November, with the possible edition of a shot issue about any Christmas event in December that didn't make it into the November edition. I'm also hoping to start getting some printed copies out somewhere, perhaps the market, so I will need articles by the deadline so I can get The Noticeboard together and printed in time.

Well, until then, I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year. And if anyone has any event the want advertised for December could you please send them to me by the 22nd November.

Merry Christmas

Eilidh



The Story of Culbokie Lockdown Quilt

Displayed in three massive panels in Findon Hall, Culbokie Lockdown Quilt has stimulated much interest by those who have seen the finished work. There is a story behind every one of the 48 patches; and all have been captured in a booklet which illustrates how the quilt was planned and executed during lockdown in the summer of 2020.

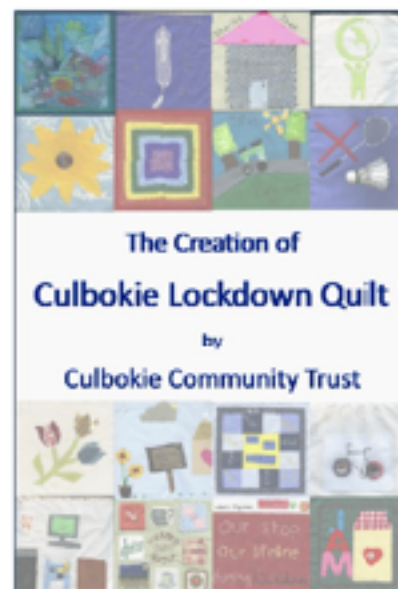
'The Story of Culbokie Lockdown Quilt' is a fascinating full-colour, 41-page booklet which includes a scan of each patch along with an explanation in the words of the patch makers. On sale now for £4-50, copies are available at indoor markets at Findon Hall on November 23rd or December 18th, or order on Culbokie Community Trust website: <https://www.culbokiect.org/>

Images of the Black Isle Calendars 2022

Hot off the press, attractive Black Isle calendars are now available for sale either from the **Spar Shop, Culbokie, The Cheese House, Cromarty** and the **Post Office, North Kessock** or from our stall at indoor community markets at Findon Hall on November 20th or December 18th. The calendars can also be ordered **online** from Culbokie Community Trust Homepage (<https://www.culbokiect.org/>). In two sizes, wall calendars at £10 and desk calendars at £8, they make great gifts for anyone who wants a daily reminder of the beauty of the Black Isle.

If you have any queries, please just send an email to event@culbokiect.org

Culbokie Lockdown Quilt Read the stories behind the patches



On sale now for **£4-50**

from indoor community markets at Findon Hall on
November 23rd and December 18th,

or email event@culbokiect.org

or order online: <https://www.culbokiect.org/>



2022 Black Isle Calendars

Beautiful images of the Black Isle taken by local photographers



On sale at Culbokie Community Indoor markets on
Nov 20th and Dec. 18th,

at Culbokie Spar, The Cheese House, Gromarty, and
the Post Office, North Keppock, or contact us at
events@culbokiecct.org or

order online <https://www.culbokiecct.org/>

Wall calendars £10
Desk calendars £8

Culbokie Community Trust
www.culbokiecct.org



Culbokie Community Trust

Black Isle Christmas Cards



On sale at Community Indoor market at
Findon Hall on Nov 20th and Dec. 18th,
or contact us at events@culbokiecct.org or
order online <https://www.culbokiecct.org/>

£1 each or £4 for 5

Sold in aid of Culbokie Green



www.culbokiecct.org

Black Isle Christmas Cards for sale

Attractive Black Isle Christmas cards, based on original photographs from Black Isle Photographic Competitions, will be on sale at indoor community markets at Findon Hall on November 20th and December 18th. Other options include contacting us by email at events@culbokiecct.org or purchasing cards online through the CCT homepage: <https://www.culbokiecct.org/>

There are four different designs, sold either as packs of five for £4 or singly for £1. These are lovely seasonal cards to send to friends and family.

From gravestone to gripping thriller

Come and hear award-winning crime thriller author, Neil Lancaster, on **Saturday November 13th** at 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Findon Hall, Culbokie. Neil will give background and context to his latest thriller, 'Dead Man's Grave', signed copies of which will be on sale at the event. Bring your own bottle; tea, coffee and home baking also on offer. Tickets are on sale at Culbokie Spar, or, to reserve tickets, please contact events@culbokiecct.org

from a gravestone to a gripping thriller ...

Come and hear from award-winning crime thriller author

Neil Lancaster



Findon Hall, Culbokie
Saturday 13th November
7 for 7.30 PM

'Grabbed me from the first page'

IAN RANKIN

'A thriller writer set to blow up the bestseller lists'

C.L. TAYLOR

Tickets £8 each from Culbokie Spar



Signed copies of 'Dead Man's Grave' will be available to purchase.

BYOB (bring your own bottle)

£ Raffle

£ Tea, coffee & home baking



Sponsored by:



www.culbokiect.org

On the 23rd October there was a big Tractor Run on the Black Isle, that consisted of 67 tractors raising money for MFR Cash for Kids.

They started at Dunvornie Farm and drove through Culbokie, Cromarty, Rosemarkie, Fortrose and Avoch. Here are some photos that a resident sent in of the tractors. Thanks Paul Wadge for the photos in the photos of the tractors driving through Culbokie



Culbokie Green Takes Shape

Culbokie Green has finally emerged from the mounds of earth and rocks on land opposite Culbokie Store, and the official 'handover' of the site from Tulloch Homes to Culbokie Community Trust (CCT) took place on October 14th. Handover is a bit of an odd word to use because the land is already owned by CCT on behalf of the community – but Tulloch Homes had taken it in hand in order to do the hard work of shaping the ground and putting in the path network. With the exception of some peripheral areas which are still being used by Tulloch Homes, the Green is now ready for us to take over and complete. Plans include wildflower meadows and trees, seating, a covered timber shelter with a living roof, a natural play area for younger children, a community orchard and some family games including outdoor table tennis. All the plans can be seen on the CCT web site at www.culbokiect.org/glascairncommunityproject.asp

Completing our plan depends on getting the required funding - and we'd like to record our thanks to Tulloch Homes for giving us a brilliant start with some serious in-kind help beyond works that are required as part of their planning consent. This has included the formation of a path looping through the Green and other ground works worth around £9,000. We'd also like to record thanks to Findon Farms for donating some large boulders that will become clambering rocks in the natural play area. We look forward to seeing them arrive on the site soon.

Funding from the Highland Coastal Communities Fund will enable us to

start the planting work on the Green including native tree and orchard planting and creating some willow structures. We will be looking for volunteers to assist with this work once all the land

and trees are available to us. Funding from HITRANS will also enable us to crack on with installing the solar lighting along the main path and for cycle parking at the bus stop. All the wildflower sowing has been supported by the Mushroom Trust and will be undertaken by Tulloch Homes in early spring to ensure good germination rates.

Following a couple of recent enquiries about the large drainage basin in the corner of the Green nearest the shop, we'd like to confirm that it is not expected to hold water for the vast majority of the time – although it may hold some water for short periods after severe rainfall. The basin will be sown with a wildflower mix to attract the butterflies and bees. Unlike the rest of the Green, it is not owned by CCT and will become the official responsibility of Scottish Water.

If you have any questions or suggestions, would like to offer help, or would just like more information, please contact us on info@culbokiect.org



Penny Edwards, CCT Director

Work starts on village green

By Gregor White

gregor.white@hrmedia.co.uk

A NEW green space is taking shape in Culbokie as a community group works in partnership with housing developers.

A tree planting marked the start of Culbokie Community Trust's work on Culbokie Green as Tulloch Homes announced it has sold its entire development of 25 bungalows at the adjacent Glascairn Meadows.

A deal has also been struck with Cairn Housing to build 14 affordable homes as part of the development.

Tulloch has also been a key partner, along with Sustrans, in developing an active travel route between Culbokie Green and the rest of the village.

Trust chairman Richard



Trust members Richard Fyfe and Penny Edwards with Tulloch director Billy McKay.

Fyfe said: "We'll be doing further tree planting and adding wildflower meadows by the spring, plus benches and signs, an informal children's play area, community orchard and a shelter with an open air

table tennis table. The second phase, subject to funding, is to erect a community hub building, with café, which can also be used as a meeting room and can be used for multi-purpose local activities."

Kieran Graham, commercial director of Tulloch, said: "The trust people have been a pleasure to work with and I'm sure their innovative efforts will further enhance the attraction of the village."

Ingredients

Serves: 30

- 100g butter
- 100g caster sugar
- 125ml treacle
- 1 egg yolk
- 250g sifted plain flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg



Method

Prep:20min > Cook:10min > Ready in:30min

1. In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until smooth. Stir in treacle and egg yolk. Combine the flour, salt, baking powder, bicarb, cinnamon, cloves, ginger and nutmeg; blend into the treacle mixture until smooth. Cover, and chill for at least one hour.
2. Preheat the oven to 180 C / Gas mark 4. On a lightly floured surface, roll the dough out to 1/2cm thickness. Cut into desired shapes with biscuit cutters. Place biscuits 5cm apart on ungreased baking trays.
3. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven, until firm. Remove from baking trays to cool on wire racks. Ice or decorate when cool.

Perfect gingerbread biscuits

Culbokie Community Cycle Club News

CCCC is an informal club for cyclists of all abilities and interests (well, all except Tour de France hopefuls and the like!). During the summer we ran a programme of evening rides, but with daylight getting in shorter supply the club is now in winter mode, with weekly group rides mostly being organised during daylight hours. (Although we may have one or two off-road night rides over the winter.)

The club is also organising some training courses over the winter. We had an excellent one-day first aid course last month, so we're prepared if we do have an accident on a group ride, and we are planning an essential maintenance course to make sure we don't get stranded by the side of the road when things go wrong. And we were particularly pleased with our "Couch to 20 km" programme, which came to a finale in September with a ride to Dingwall and back. The programme was organised over six sessions, each including some top tips and a group ride of gradually increasing length. It was great to see the four participants increase their fitness and confidence over the six weeks. We reckon the final ride was actually 28 km, but we were fortified by cakes at Ems & Co café on Dingwall Station (other cafés are available!). And it was nice to get this positive feedback: "The programme was excellent, well thought out and nicely paced. I feel so much more confident in cycling and testing my limits. Hills are not as frightening as they were. I intend cycling as much as possible for local trips in preference to driving - which was always my goal. Well done everyone, it was no mean feat!" We aim to run the programme again next Spring, once the days are long enough to get out in the evenings again.

For anyone interested in joining us, membership is free and there are no obligations. There's a short form to complete which can be downloaded from the [CCT website](#), or email cycling@culbokie.ct.org. We would also be delighted if anyone is able to offer a venue for the bike maintenance courses – we need somewhere dry, with space for 7 or 8 people with their bikes!

**The Culbokie Players Presents to
you for three nights and
three nights only**

ALLY BABA AND THE FORTROSE THIEVES

THURSDAY 9TH at 7:30pm

FRIDAY 10TH at 7:30pm

SATURDAY 11TH at 7:30pm

Doors open at 7:00pm

TICKETS COST:

ADULT: £7

CHILD: £3

**Tickets can be purchased from the market
or Sheila on 01349 877 879**



**GET IN THERE EARLY,
THE HOTTEST TICKETS IN
TOWN, OH YES THEY
ARE!**



A Challenging Puzzle for Ferintosh Volunteers

Over the past 18 months, Ferintosh Volunteers have tackled a range of tasks: clearing the garden and play area behind Findon Hall, tackling litter in various corners of the Ferintosh area, creating a Christmas Tree Trail in Culbokie Wood, and running a request line for anyone needing practical help, especially during those early months of lockdown last year. However, our most recent project caused the most head scratching.

Local resident, John Brierley, who has limited mobility, is a keen photographer and naturalist. He requested help to move his bird hide from one location to another some 100 metres away. A team of four volunteers (Paul Wadge, Bob Neish, Peter Wrigglesworth and Angie Morris) aimed to complete the job before dusk fell. Did we have the right tools and equipment? Would it be possible to move the hide in one piece? More crucially, if we take it apart piece by piece, would we be able to reassemble it *in the right order*?

The team decided to dismantle and rebuild the hide; the task gave them the satisfaction of tackling a giant jigsaw puzzle of oddly shaped pieces.



John gave advice on the best position for locating the hide at exactly the right angle so that he will be able to capture good photographs of the kites and buzzards swooping on to the bird table. The easiest part of the project by far was fixing the bird table, although it was tempting to linger to admire the stunning view over the fields beyond.



The completed hide offers John a great perspective from which to view birds of prey and wildlife. The new position of the hide, in its open setting, will mean that he will be able to take photographs of the kite with its long thin wings. John is delighted with the result. He appreciated the help from *'efficient, and enthusiastic volunteers - a job well done.'*



CULBOKIE CHURCH CENTRE CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve Watchnight (Cromarty): 11:00

Christmas Day Service (Culbokie): 10:00

Sunday Service - December 26th (Cromarty): 10:30AM

Culbokie Woods Path Clearance – volunteers wanted!

Culbokie Community Trust is running their traditional December work party in Culbokie Woods on Saturday 4th December. This year's work will be clearing shrubs and small trees where they are beginning to over-grow one of the paths. Unfortunately Forest & Land Scotland have changed their policy and this year we aren't able to offer the reward of a spruce tree to take away – but most of the frequently-used paths are quite clear at the moment, so there isn't too much clearance needed. Meet at the entrance to the woods by the recycling bins, next to the playing field, at 10.30. Bring clothes appropriate for the weather and gorse, a packed lunch and hot drink, and a positive attitude! We will have some tools, work gloves and eye protection, but bring your own if you have them.



Findon Hall 100 club tickets are up for renewal again and we will be at the Community Market this month where folk can pay for next year!?

"Good news for Easter Kinkell and all those who have campaigned for Fibre Broadband - BT has been in the village making connection from the Fibre spur that goes through the village on its way to the Culbokie Exchange. After years of writing to BT and meetings with BT in Ferintosh Village Hall it is fantastic to realise that the recent mailing received from BT actually means what it says.

We can all now get connected. Well done BT!

Culbokie Community Trust History Group report.

A conversation with Angus Bethune, who has a long family connection with Culbokie, has now established that the author of a map of the village compiled in c1976 was his mother, Mary, who ran the post office when it was located at the family house, Glentyan. The fact that it had been drawn on official Post Office poster should have made us more suspicious regarding Captain Elliot's involvement, who it was assumed to be the author. Mary produced it for the benefit of a postman who was based in Conon Bridge and whose round included Culbokie. Quite how it came into the possession of Captain Elliot is not known and gives rise to a further puzzle as Captain Elliot is shown as being in residence in his new-build property "St Martins" in the village and also out at the farm, St Martins, at the north-eastern boundary of the village. The map can be found in the Gallery [here](#).

New material has been added to the Findon Hall page.

Photographs of the construction of the new Hall can be found [here](#).

Photographs of the old Hall and a [link](#) to the opening of the new Hall in July 1975.

A while back we published a better view of the pump and cow-tail well in the village centre; see Gallery, images 10 and 11, [here](#) which prompted the response of "man watching woman at work". Recently a copy of the press report associated with the

CHAIR REPORT NOVEMBER 2021

Hello everyone

It seems like no time at all since my last report, but we have had a change in seasons and have now definitely moved into Autumn. I think we are very fortunate to live in this area and have such wonderful scenery which at this time of the year looks stunning. There have also been changes in our Covid regulations and although the numbers are still high in some areas we do seem to have managed to get back to some regular activities and people are definitely able to meet up more with friends and family, and are able to plan and enjoy time away.

FCC remains busy with a number of projects still underway and I thought it would be helpful to update you of how things are going with our main ones.

The Ferintosh Community Bus pilot is doing well. Some of you will have seen the new electric bus which we now have and will, I am sure, been very impressed by the lovely decals on the bus. Thanks to all the residents who helped to choose these. We recently had leaflets through our letter boxes with details of the bus, how it works, and timetables etc. I am still trying to get organised for my trip but will definitely make use of this to do some Christmas shopping. An excellent way of getting you and your pressies home.

The Culbokie Community Trust recently had the village green hand over from Tullochs and are now continuing with their plans for that area. I look forward to seeing progress over the spring time.

FCC are taking part in a pilot with Highland Council to identify and fix the pothole issues which are in our area. We have now recruited a team of Pothole Hunters and they are doing a fabulous job looking for the worst of the potholes and these have been notified to Highland Council and we await a date for the new machinery to come and to the repairs. Thanks must go to the volunteers who have been willing to undertake the surveys for this pilot.

I would also like to thank all of the volunteers who continue to help out in our community. We are very fortunate in our area to have a large number of people willing to help with all sorts of tasks, big or small.

As usual we continue to look for residents who wish to be part of our email communications and you can contact our email address and Bruce will arrange this for you. The email is ferintoshcc30@gmail.com. We continue with our monthly zoom meetings so please do contact us if you wish to join with us.

I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to a better 2022 for us all.

Karen
Chair FCC